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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,447	11/25/2003	Tom Cheng	13914-033001 / 2003P00877	4999
32864	7590	09/21/2007	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			ZEE, EDWARD	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/720,447	CHENG ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Edward Zee	2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/25/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the original filing of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Claims 1-19 are pending and have been considered below.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-7 encompass an electronic transmission signal. An electronic signal is a form of energy. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and this is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and therefore not a compilation of matter. Thus, an electronic transmission signal does not fall within any of the four categories of invention. Therefore, Claims 1-7 recite non-statutory subject matter.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wong et al. (6,578,037).**

**Claims 1 and 8:** Wong et al. discloses a method and computer-readable medium or propagated signal having embodied thereon a computer program configured to determine whether a user is permitted to access a business object when executing a software application of an enterprise information technology system, the medium or signal comprising one or more code segments configured to:

- a. use a permission object(*ie. policy group attribute*) to determine whether a user associated with an entry in user information is permitted to access a data object associated with a data object type(*ie. objects 218 and 224*) [figure 2];
- b. wherein the entry in the user information associates the user with a user affiliation, the permission object identifies:
  - i. a user affiliation(*ie. which policy group user is associated to*) to which the permission object applies [column 6, lines 3-9];
  - ii. a data object type(*ie. type of database record*) to which the permission object applies such that the data object type is associated with multiple attributes(*ie. salary range, job categories, etc.*) and each data object having the data object type is associated with the multiple attributes [column 6, lines 29-39];
  - iii. a permission attribute(*ie. salary range, job categories, etc.*) identifying one of the multiple attributes [column 6, lines 29-39];
  - iv. and a permission value(*ie. employee's salary, employee's job category, etc.*) for the permission attribute [column 6, lines 29-39];

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- c. and the user is permitted to access the data object when:
- i. the user affiliation that is associated with the user is the same user affiliation as the user affiliation to which the permission object applies (*ie. users affiliated with the "Human Resources of Company A" policy group may access employee records of employees earning salaries below a threshold*) [column 6, lines 29-39];
  - ii. the data object type (*ie. only Company A's records*) of the data object is the same data object type as the data object type to which the permission object applies [column 6, lines 29-39];
  - iii. and a value (*ie. recorded salary of employee's record is within the range of accessible salaries*) of an attribute of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the permission value of the permission attribute and the attribute corresponds to the permission attribute [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claim 13:** Wong et al. discloses a computer system for determining whether a user is permitted to access a data object when executing a software application of an enterprise information technology system, the system comprising:

- a. a data repository (*ie. database system 100*) for access control information for software having data objects, each data object [figure 1]:
  - i. being associated with a data object type (*ie. only Company A's records*) having multiple attributes (*ie. salary ranges, job categories, etc.*) [column 6, lines 29-39];
  - ii. having multiple attributes (*ie. salary range, job categories, etc.*) that are the same as the multiple attributes of the data object type to which the data object is associated [column 6, lines 29-39];

- iii. and having a value associated (*ie. employee's salary, employee's job category, etc.*) with each attribute of the multiple attributes [column 6, lines 29-39];
- b: the data repository including:
- i. user information (*ie. context attribute values*) that associates a user affiliation with a user of the software application [column 7, lines 46-48];
  - ii. and permission information (*ie. Company A HR policy group*) having multiple permission objects (*ie. policies*), each permission object identifying a user affiliation (*ie. only users from Company A's HR department*) to which the permission object applies, a data object type (*ie. only Company A's employee records*) to which the permission object applies, a permission attribute (*ie. salary range*) identifying one of the multiple attributes, and a permission value (*ie. employee's salary*) for the permission attribute [column 6, lines 29-39];
- c. and an executable software module that causes:
- i. a comparison of a value of an attribute of the multiple attributes associated with a data object to which a user seeks to access such that the attribute corresponds to the permission attribute of a permission object with the permission value of the permission object (*ie. conditions that restrict results returned by a query, thereby restricting access to data*) [column 5, lines 49-50];
  - ii. and an indication that a user is permitted to access a data object when the value of the attribute associated with the data object is consistent with the permission value of the permission object (*ie. the function checks context value attributes that identify the user to determine whether the user is associated with company A*) [column 7, lines 41-45].

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**Claims 2, 9 and 14:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal, method and system of claims 1, 8 and 13 and further discloses that the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access the data object when the value of the attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is the same as the permission value of the permission attribute (*ie. permit users in HR of Company A to access employee records of employees earning salaries below a threshold*) [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claims 3, 10 and 15:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal, method and system of claims 1, 8 and 13 and further discloses that the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access the data object when the value of the attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is the within a range specified (*ie. range of salaries below a threshold*) by the permission value of the permission attribute [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claims 4, 11 and 16:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal, method and system of claims 1, 8 and 13 and further discloses that the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access the data object when the value of the attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is one of enumerated values (*ie. one of the particular job categories*) specified by the permission value of the permission attribute [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claims 5, 12 and 17:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal, method and system of claims 1, 8 and 13 and further discloses that:

- a. the permission object identifies an attribute group (*ie. policy groups*) having one or more attributes of the multiple attributes associated with the data object type (*ie. default policy groups 150, 160 and 170*) [figure 1];

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b. and the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access an attribute of the data object only when the attribute of the data object corresponds to an attribute of the attribute group of the permission object (*ie. permit users in HR of Company A to access employee records of employees earning salaries below a threshold*) [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claims 6 and 18:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal and system of claims 5 and 17 and further discloses that:

- a. the permission object identifies a second attribute group (*ie. plurality of policy groups and individual policies under each policy group*) having one or more attributes of the multiple attributes associated with the data object type (*ie. default policy groups 150, 160 and 170*) [figure 1];
- b. a second permission attribute (*ie. particular job categories*) identifying one of the multiple attributes [column 6, lines 29-39];
- c. and a second permission value (*ie. employee's job category on record*) for the second permission attribute, associates the second permission attribute and the second permission value with the second attribute group, and associates the permission attribute and permission value with the attribute group [column 6, lines 29-39];
- d. and the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access an attribute of the data object only when the attribute of the data object corresponds to an attribute of the second attribute group of the permission object and a value of an attribute of one of the multiple attributes associated with the data object is consistent with the second permission

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value of the second permission attribute (*ie. permit users in HR of Company B to access employee records of employees who belong to a particular job category*) [column 6, lines 29-39].

**Claims 7 and 19:** Wong et al. discloses a medium or signal and system of claims 1 and 13 and further discloses that the permission object identifies a permitted action(*ie. access rule of particular context attribute value allows users associated with company A to change policy group attributes*), and the one or more code segments are further configured to permit the user to access the data object and perform an action on the data object when the action is consistent with the permitted action identified in the permission object(*ie. the function checks context value attributes that identify the user to determine whether the user is associate with company A, and whether the new value belongs to the particular set of values*) [column 7, lines 30-45].

### ***Conclusion***

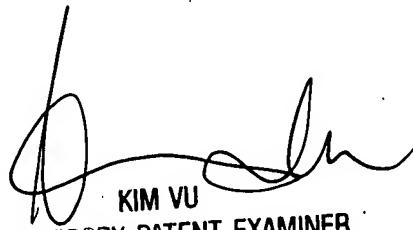
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Zee whose telephone number is (571) 270-1686. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EZ  
August 28, 2007



KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100